



Global Initiative to  
**End All Corporal Punishment  
of Children**

# Progress towards prohibiting all corporal punishment in Latin America

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children ([www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)), July 2011

Note: The above information has been compiled from many sources, including reports to and by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies. Information in square brackets is unconfirmed. We are very grateful to government officials, UNICEF and other UN agencies, NGOs and human rights institutions, and many individuals who have helped to provide and check information. Please let us know if you believe any of the information to be incorrect: [info@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal system		Prohibited in alternative care settings
			As sentence for crime	As disciplinary measure	
Argentina	NO	YES <sup>1</sup>	YES	YES	NO
Bolivia	NO <sup>2</sup>	YES	SOME <sup>3</sup>	NO <sup>4</sup>	NO <sup>5</sup>
Brazil <sup>6</sup>	NO <sup>7</sup>	NO <sup>8</sup>	YES	NO <sup>9</sup>	NO <sup>10</sup>
Chile	NO	NO <sup>11</sup>	YES	YES	NO
Colombia	NO	NO <sup>12</sup>	SOME <sup>13</sup>	NO <sup>14</sup>	NO
Costa Rica	YES <sup>15</sup>	YES	YES	YES	YES

<sup>1</sup> But no explicit prohibition

<sup>2</sup> Legislation prohibits only corporal punishment which is considered harmful

<sup>3</sup> Prohibited in state laws, but lawful in indigenous and tribal justice systems

<sup>4</sup> See note 2

<sup>5</sup> See note 2

<sup>6</sup> In July 2010, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, before leaving office, submitted a bill to Congress which would prohibit in all settings

<sup>7</sup> Draft legislation which would prohibit in all settings under discussion (2011)

<sup>8</sup> See previous note

<sup>9</sup> See note 7

<sup>10</sup> See note 7

<sup>11</sup> Legislation prohibits only corporal punishment resulting in injury

<sup>12</sup> Legislation prohibits only corporal punishment resulting in injury

<sup>13</sup> Prohibited in laws of the Republic, lawful in indigenous communities

<sup>14</sup> See note 12

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal system		Prohibited in alternative care settings
			As sentence for crime	As disciplinary measure	
Cuba	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Dominican Republic	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Ecuador	NO	YES	SOME <sup>16</sup>	YES	NO
El Salvador	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Guatemala	NO	YES <sup>17</sup>	SOME <sup>18</sup>	YES	NO
Honduras	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
Mexico	NO <sup>19</sup>	NO	YES	NO	NO
Nicaragua <sup>20</sup>	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Panama	NO <sup>21</sup>	NO <sup>22</sup>	YES	YES	NO <sup>23</sup>
Paraguay	NO	NO <sup>24</sup>	YES	YES	NO
Peru <sup>25</sup>	NO	YES <sup>26</sup>	YES	NO	NO
Uruguay	YES <sup>27</sup>	YES	YES	YES	YES
Venezuela	YES <sup>28</sup>	YES	YES	YES	YES

*Analysis prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children*  
[www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org); [info@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:info@endcorporalpunishment.org)  
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<sup>15</sup> Prohibited in 2008 amendments to the Code on Children and Adolescents and the Family Code

<sup>16</sup> Prohibited in state law but permitted in indigenous communities

<sup>17</sup> But no explicit prohibition

<sup>18</sup> Unlawful in state laws but permitted in traditional justice systems

<sup>19</sup> But “right of correction” removed from Civil Code of Federal Territory

<sup>20</sup> Proposals to prohibit all corporal punishment in draft Family Code under discussion (2009)

<sup>21</sup> Legislation prohibits only corporal punishment which results in injury

<sup>22</sup> See previous note

<sup>23</sup> See note 21

<sup>24</sup> Legislation protects dignity but does not explicitly prohibit corporal punishment

<sup>25</sup> Congress pledged all party support for prohibition (2007); legislation which would prohibit in all settings under discussion (2010)

<sup>26</sup> But no explicit prohibition

<sup>27</sup> Prohibited in 2007 amendments to Civil Code and Children and Adolescents Code

<sup>28</sup> Prohibited in 2007 amendment to Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents